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Chief, St/I/C

28 March 1957

SA to Ch/G/RR

Value of Open-Source Material to Geographic Intelligence

1. As requested by you, attached hereto are specific examples of the part played by open-source material in the production of geographic intelligence. Sample studies are cited for the USSR, Hungary, Israel and Jordan, Latin America, Thailand-Cambodia, and Tibet.
2. The bulk of geographic intelligence consists of the interpretation of data rather than the presentation of data for its own sake. In addition, the materials to be interpreted--terrain, ethnic characteristics, rail nets--are often innocuous in and of themselves, and do not have to be acquired by covert or clandestine means. Probably 60% of the data necessary for all geographic intelligence is therefore procured from open-source materials. Qualitatively, the importance is perhaps even greater.

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No Attachments

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Chief, Geography Division

27 March 1957

Acting Chief/G

MR-52

1. It is my contention that the final approval of a Map Intelligence Review lies with the Chief, Geography Division. In the normal routine of production, the Chief, Geographic Area, should approve "after the fact" and make such suggestions as are deemed necessary applicable to future issues.

2. Whenever the Chief, D/GG feels in need of guidance in regard to any one article or issue, he would, of course, seek assistance from the Area Chief.

3. It is proposed therefore:

a. MR-52 is returned to Chief, D/GG for final approval and publication.

b. If a review within these terms of reference results in the desire for Area support on specific items, every effort will be made to provide such assistance.

c. I have read the articles hastily and will suggest the following thoughts for your consideration and final decision:

(1) Iran -- Good subject for MR. Not too happy with some statements that deal with impressions in regard to persons, motives, etc. Also, why are we doing article at this time?

(2) Berlin -- I feel a little cool toward this one -- sort of "old shoe", isn't it? Unless we show how these recent completions affect tonnage, and of what, etc.

(3) France -- Good article generally. Seems too long to me.

(4) Borneo -- Most interesting of issue. Tons and barrels are not consistent.

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